

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-08

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R 111639Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2163

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9756

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: A. PARIS 17855 B. PARIS 16794

1. OUR READING OF CURRENT SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONS TRACKS CLOSELY WITH THE VIEWS IN REFTELS, AND WE SEE THE CURRENT "COOLING" AS MORE CYCLICAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE. WE WOULD ALSO ATTACH SOMEWHAT LESS SIGNIFICANCE TO SOVIET-FRENCH PARTY RELATIONS THAN OMNES DOES (REF A, PARA 4), AND WOULD NOT LINK THE ATTACK ON PONIATOWSKI DIRECTLY TO GISCARD, DESPITE THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO.

2. IT MAY BE WORTH NOTING THAT THE TASS ITEM ON PONIATOWSKI WAS NOT CARRIED IN ANY OF THE MAJOR RUSSIAN LANGUAGE MEDIA. THE ONLY NEWSPAPER TO CARRY IT WAS SELSKAYA ZHIZN (RURAL LIFE). THIS SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BECOME PART OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY LINE, AS REFLECTED IN PRAVDA AND OTHER MAJOR MEDIA, BUT WAS INTENDED MAINLY FOR

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FOREIGN CONSUMPTION, PERHAPS PRIMARILY FOR FRENCH CP.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT
FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE'S VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL, AND
THAT HIS MEETING WITH KOSYGIN WAS ENTIRELY FRIENDLY.
NEITHER PONIATOWSKI NOR THE TASS ARTICLE WERE MENTIONED,
ACCORDING TO VIMONT.
BREMONT

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NNN

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